

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**110 E. MAIN ST.**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2010**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Nicky Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present: Ben Baranovsky, Morgan Brost, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Jacob Hershberger, Killian Jackson, Doug McLeod, Killian Jackson, Zaul Moayedian, Nicky Robinson, Kiara Stickney

Commissioners Absent: Erin Hughes, James Marino, Avi Salem, Julie Wiederhold

Alternates Present: Jack Horan, Warren Nakazawa, Nikhil Patel, Thomas Wrappe

Staff: Chief Scott Seaman, Irene Shrier, Recording Secretary

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Oath of office was administered by Clerk Administrator, Jackie Rose.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of Sept. 21, 2010**

It was reported that Paul Glenn needed to be removed from the agenda cover sheet. Corrections to the minutes will include: Captain Forrest called the meeting to order and under the Review of the Commissioner's Handbook, paragraph 3, it should read that a quorum is 8 or more. Rodd Farhadi made a motion, seconded by Hirsh Goswamy, to approve the amended minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting. **(Passed 11-0)**

**VERBAL COMMUNICATION**

John Hogan reported that Red Ribbon Week is the week of October 18 and will be observed at the elementary and middle schools. Teen Force had a public event last week to introduce an internship program with a goal to have 20-30 internships in the community for students. There are currently students working in the community through Teen force.

## **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

### **2. CASSY- Liz Schoeben**

Liz Schoeben is a member of the CASSEY staff at the Los Gatos High School and has been providing mental health counseling to teens for the last 15 years. CASSY is a nonprofit agency which has partnered with Los Gatos High School to provide high quality, mental health services to students free of charge. They provide crisis intervention, ongoing counseling, proactive mental health education and outreach to the entire school community to help students reach their full potential. If a student is enrolled at the high school these services are extended to the family as well. There are 3 counselors available at the school every day. They are located in House #1 and the counseling bunker on campus.

Liz addressed the stress that students are under and how some cope by using drugs and alcohol. One of the goals of the counselors is to educate students and parents on suicide prevention, teen depression, drugs and alcohol prevention and reducing risky behaviors. Other topics include grief and loss, anger management, victims of violence and social skills training. The CASSY staff are experts in dealing with adolescent behaviors and issues. The Staff is putting together a peer to peer support group. There will be a 10 week curriculum which includes tutorials and basic skills for those interested. The classes begin next week. The following Youth Commissioners were interested in becoming part of the support group: Zaul Moayedian, Ben Baranovsky, Rodd Farhadi, Hirsh Goswamy, Kiara Stickney and Jack Horan.

The youth commission discussed pressure/stress that kids feel from other kids, homework, etc. They suggested that teachers at the high school see the movie, "Race to Nowhere". There was discussion on how the Youth Commission can help with the issues related to stress. Chief Seaman suggested that it would be beneficial for the Youth Commission to first engage in conversations around the issue of teen stress and try to better understand the issue. This is an opportunity for research and exploration before coming up with solutions. Rodd and Zaul offered to try to pull together a meeting of some of the Youth Commissioners to discuss this. Chief asked that they let Irene know when they plan to do this so that he can check with the Town Attorney to see if this is allowable under the Brown Act. Those interested in participating in such a meeting are: Rodd, Zaul, Nicky, Ben, Hirsh, Kiara, Dough, Morgan, Killian, Adam, and Jack.

### **3. "Race to Nowhere" Feedback**

A number of commissioners saw this movie when it was presented at Hillbrook School. The movie discussed how young kids are being exposed to stress at an early age, especially in the school environment. The commission saw value in having this film shown to teachers at the high school. They discussed meeting with the high school principal to see what the interest would be in showing this to teachers and students. The school district does have a copy of the movie.

### **4. Teen Access to tobacco**

Chief Seaman stated that there is funding from the County to local agencies who create regulations to stores who sell tobacco. Funding would also be available for curriculum for kids to better understand the effects of smoking. If the youth commission is interested

in this issue, Chief Seaman will work with you and would like to hear your thoughts and input.

**5. Council Commission Confluence Input**

The commission discussed key issues they would like the Council to consider for incorporation into the Town's 2010-2012 strategic goals. They are:

- a) Youth friendly business program
- b) Teen stress
- c) Teen access to tobacco
- d) Teen retailers in the North 40 (lack of teen retailers in Town)

Doug will contact Jessica Von Borck to see what the interest would be for retailers to give a discount to high school students in Town.

**6. Parking Update and Library Construction Impacts**

Chief addressed the issue of parking limitations due to the new library construction. Employees are now parking on the streets in and around the high school due impacts necessitated by the construction.

**7. Update on Youth Friendly Business Program**

The subcommittee met to discuss steps to move forward and follow up with the program. The subcommittee drafted a letter that they would like to send out to parents and students asking for recommendations for businesses that they think are youth friendly in Los Gatos.

**ITEMS OF INFORMATION**

**8. Presentation of Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government**

The award will be presented to the Town for the Youth Friendly Business Program on Monday, November 1 at the Town Council meeting which will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. Please plan to attend if you can.

**9. Los Gatos Sports Complex on University Avenue**

There will be a community input meeting on November 16 regarding the new sports complex. This is a chance for the Youth Commission to give input on the subject.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.